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INDUSTRY

Lumber Production & Fishing Still Lagging: Productions shortcomings in Soviet industry, as discussed on the radio and in the press, usually vary in degree rather than in kind. Low labor efficiency, inadequate utilization of machinery, poor production quality and, last but not least, the output of simple manufactures at the expense of complicated ones to make a favorable quantitative showing are generally attributable to all lagging enterprises. Better living conditions for workers are occasionally suggested as an effective method of improving production but that theme is treated cautiously and is not pursued with the same vigor as for instance intensified socialist competition, better political propaganda as an incentive to better work and so on. Although a manpower shortage is implicitly revealed by the numerous "men wanted" ads broadcast and published at frequent intervals, this theme is usually omitted from radio and press discussion. A broadcast from Vinnitsa (25 February) stated that the oblast department of the USSR Ministry of Labor Reserves has been recruiting among the collective farmers "and other population" as many workers as they can get to ship them to where they are most needed. Listed among the industries where the labor shortage is admittedly acute are the lumber industry of Kostroma Oblast, Primorye and Khabarovsk Krai, Komi ASSR and Buryat-Mongol ASSR; the Ministry of the Coal Industry in the Donets Basin, and the Ministry for the Construction of Heavy Industry and Machine-Building Enterprises in Voroshilovgrad, Nikolayev and Zaporozhye oblasts and the Karelo-Finnish SSR.

Discussing the chronic failings of the lumber industry, IZVESTIA (25 February) points to the unaccountable technical breakdowns which are said to hamper production. A large number of machines are prematurely (prezhdevremennno) put out of commission and there is very little effort to make them work again. The Ministry is reminded that, although it "acknowledged as just" (priznalo spravedlivym) IZVESTIA's criticism of 12 February of the gross mismanagement noted in its lumber trusts, it does not appear to have done anything to straighten things out. Some of its largest trusts, in fact, have taken the easiest way out of the difficult situation by adopting the "vicious practice of reducing plans" (porochnaya praktika zanizhenykh planov). Among them are such huge enterprises as the West Urals Combine (uralzapadles), the Chusov-les and Novgorod combines. The Ministry's failure to provide for adequate supplies of spare parts for locomotives, tractors, trucks and winches is said to have produced a major bottleneck in production which "can no longer be tolerated." The shortage of spare parts is particularly acute in Arkhangel'sk, Molotov, Kirov and Tomsk oblasts, Karelo-Finnish SSR, Komi ASSR and other unnamed places. PRAVDA (28 February) adds the Belorussian SSR, Sverdlovsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Krai to the list of lagging lumber areas. In addition to the failings already mentioned, it is revealed that some branches of the lumber industry are suffering from a shortage of seasonal manpower and transportation, and that the Ministry of Labor Reserves has not yet been able to solve the problem of "creating permanent, qualified cadres" of timber workers. The difficulty of inducing people to work in lumber camps, as apparent from the above and other references to the subject, is, according to PRAVDA's implicit admission, further aggravated by the unsatisfactory "living conditions" (uslovia zhizni) of the lumberjacks. The paper therefore urges the industry to improve its workers living conditions and cultural amenities so as to attract additional labor force and facilitate the training of permanent cadres.

A report broadcast from Kostroma on 28 February says that the Kostroma Timber Trust (Trest Kostroma-les) completed its seasonal procurement plans by 26 percent, the Industrial Timber Trust by 46 percent and a number of others are not far ahead. Indeed the oblast Party Committee has found the situation grave enough to "decree" a month's campaign to speed up the implementation of the 1952-1953 lumber-procurement plans.

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Unsatisfactory Coal Production is the subject of a ZARYA VOSTOKA editorial discussion of 26 February. Reiterating the old contention that over-all plan fulfillment is not enough, the paper says that despite the favorable showing made by the Georgian SSR coal industry as a whole, "the average indices...still conceal a number of lagging enterprises." Such industrial units as Ikvibuli Coal Trust and the Akhaltsikhe Mining Administration (shakhtoupravlenie) are said to have remained behind their 1952 plans. Referring to the mechanization of labor-consuming processes in the Republic's mining industry, the paper calls the progress made so far "utterly intolerable" (sovershenno nesterpimo):

The conservatism of the management...in the field of mechanization caused a general lag in the coal industry of Georgia. Last year the plan for mechanizing loading operations and drilling new mining sectors was not fulfilled.

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A report from Stalino (28 February) asserts that the Makeyev coal miners are "heavily indebted" (v bolshom dolgu) to the State: their January production plan was a failure, the work deteriorated more in February. Similar conditions are reported to be prevailing at the Krasnogvardeisk, Budenny and Ordzhonikidze Coal Trusts. Two neighboring coal trusts with identical production conditions are cited, one of which is always ahead of schedule while the other is unable to keep up with its production quotas. The trouble is (beda v tom) that the mining authorities never take the trouble of propagating the experience of the leading mines among the rest of the enterprises.

Metals: Alluding to a possible drop in metal production, PRAVDA (24 February) says that "by no means all metallurgical enterprises" (daleko ne vse metallurgicheskie predpriyatiya) are making good production progress. Poor organizational and technical leadership and "lack of proper arrangement" (neslazhennost) within the plants are said to be responsible for failing production in some of the important metallurgical areas. Citing the Cheliabinsk Metallurgical plant as a typical example, the paper says that it is not taking advantage of the advanced technological experience: its administration has in fact become accustomed to violations of technological regulations. The mismanagement, rejects and low-quality production (bezkhochestvennost, brak, nedobrokachestvennaya produktsiya) attributable to the Cheliabinsk plant are said to be characteristic also of the Dzerzhinsky plant, the Goroblagodatskoye Ore-Mining Administration of the Urals and others. The Ministry for the Construction of Heavy-Industry Enterprises has been derelict in the commissioning of new plants and delaying the reconstruction of existing ones.

Fishing: The Soviet Union has the richest fishing resources in the world, says scientist Mikhailov in IZVESTIA on 25 February (not broadcast), but does not exploit that possibility to the full. One of the main reasons behind the industry's chronic illness is the "disproportionate development" (neproportionalnost razvitiya) of its fleet and shore bases. Much has already been accomplished in the construction of an adequate fishing fleet but the operations of the vessels are said to be hampered by the lack of the necessary shore installations. The proper exploitation of the fishing fleet, says Mikhailov, is another problem that demands immediate solution. The concentration of fish off Kamchatka coast is estimated to be more than three times as great as that in the Barents Sea, but the average annual catch per the same 34-meter trawler in the Murmansk area is about 50 percent higher than in Kamchatka:

... the Murmansk area trawlers spent two-thirds of the year at sea and one-third in port, while the Kamchatka trawlers spent three-quarters of the year in port and only one-quarter at sea.

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Russian text:

... traulery Murmana dve tret'i godovogo vremeni rabotali v more i odnu tret' stoyali v portu, a traulery Kamchatki tri chetverti godovogo vremeni stoyali v portu i tolko odnu chetvert byli v more.

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Kamchatka lacks adequate shore facilities for servicing the trawlers which are frequently forced to waste 30 percent of their working time waiting to be unloaded. During that time much of the fish "becomes unfit for human consumption" (delayatsya neprigodnoy dlya pishchevykh tseley) and has to be utilized for different purposes. This "low profitability" (malaya rentabelnost) of the Kamchatka fishing industry is said to be characteristic of the operations of the country's other fishing basins. Criticizing the obsolete fishing methods still employed by a major part of the industry, Mikhailov says that even today "drifting nets" (drifternie seti) are being used in the North Atlantic, the Far Eastern and other fishing grounds whereas such efficient facilities as purse-seines (koshelkovie nevida) and trawls of various depths (raznoglubinnie traly) have not yet been mastered.

The All-Union Research Institute for Fishing and Oceanography, it is pointed out, has not been more productive than the industry itself, having failed in some of its most important tasks. Acting on Professor Vodyanitsky's theory of the great untapped fishing resources in the Black Sea, the Institute sent an expedition to determine the extent of underwater life there. After three years the expedition "has not yet clarified the situation" (yasnosti v delo ne vnesla). We must face the fact, Mikhailov concludes, that the USSR fishing industry has been backward for years and is still lagging behind its planned assignments:

... the fishing industry continues to work unsatisfactorily. It failed to complete its fishing assignments under the fourth Five Year Plan, and is behind schedule now.

Russian text:

... rybnaya promyshlennost prodolzhaet rabotat neudovletvoritelno. Ona ne vyponila plana dobychi ryby i morskogo zverya v chetvertoy piatiletke i ne vypolnyaet ego teper.

Consumer Industry & Trade is the object of a detailed editorial discussion by IZVESTIYA on 25 February. Repeating the familiar contention that, as a first step toward improvement, thieves and swindlers must be weeded out of the consumer trade, the paper says that many other defects will have to be removed before the consumer can be assured of getting a square deal. To begin with, there is still a shortage of retail trade outlets in such populated centers as Sverdlovsk, Ufa, Kokchetav, Kustanai, Smolensk and Bryansk. The situation is even worse in a number of Ukrainian cities where the number of food and industrial goods stores "is being reduced instead of growing larger" (ne tolko ne uvelichivayetsya, a sokrashchayetsya). One of the greatest crimes against the average Soviet consumer, however, is that his requirements are not taken into consideration during the implementation of the various production plans. Thus industrial management is still sticking to the "harmful practice" (vrednaya praktika) of planning on the basis of "gross production volume" (valovaya produktsiya) without any regard for the prescribed range of goods--or quality for that matter. Production planning itself is said to leave much to be desired. Thus the Gorki Oblast trade network has been importing 300 varieties of consumer goods "which could be successfully produced locally" (kotorye s uspekhom mogut vyrabatyvatsya na meste). The same may be said of Irkutsk, Molotov and Mogilev oblasts and Latvian SSR. Our cities are expanding at a rapid pace, the paper goes on, and the existing retail trade outlets are just as rapidly becoming obsolete and too expensive to operate:

...what we need is not merely "trade points" but excellent large stores, that would reduce overhead expenses several

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times, with storage space, refrigeration facilities and the most modern equipment.

Russian text:

...nam nuzhny ne prosto "torgovie tochki", a otlichnie krupnie magaziny, v neskolko raz snizhayushchie nakladnie raskhody, osnashchennye skladskimi pomeshcheniyami, kholodilnyimi ustanovkami, noveishim oborudovaniem.

PARTY ACTIVITIES

With the beginning of the vigilance campaign, radio and press discussion of party activities, normally treated as a distinct topic in itself, has been included in the context of ideological themes. Intra-Party "democracy," political education, lecture propaganda and routine Party meetings are geared to the ultimate objective of ideological and political vigilance. Indeed even such infringements of intra-Party rules as the substitution of co-optation for the election of Communist officials are now interpreted as conducive to relaxation of political watchfulness. Apart from that, Party attention is from time to time refocused on administrative matters, supervision over economic activities, personnel promotions and similar activities.

STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (25 February) complains that too many of Oblast Party members are still unfamiliar with the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism. The officials in charge of the political school network appear to be interested more in the numbers of students attending rather than in the quality of instruction, which is admittedly below the required political level. In some rayons, as in Barrikadny and others, lecture propaganda has been neglected altogether while the local press has discontinued publicizing political studies of Communists and the progress of their schooling is no longer analyzed. PRAVDA (26 February) warns Communist officials against the long condemned practice of "substituting for" (podmena) or taking over the administration of economic enterprises under their jurisdiction. Party members must bear in mind that party political work is their chief duty, and their supervision of local government and economic activities is to be exercised not over the heads of the appropriate officials but through them (ne pomimo ikh a cherez nikh). Party officials must maintain a certain balance between their organizations' political work and the supervision of the activities of non-Party organizations. No Party Committee can afford to plunge itself into industrial or agricultural activities "at the expense of minimizing" (tsenoy umalenia) the importance of its prime duties, i.e., Party work. Another malpractice which, according to the paper, is still popular with some committees is the co-optation of Communist officials in contravention of the Party statute that specifically provides for their election of the Party leadership:

The substitution of co-optation for elections actually makes the election system an empty formality and represents a peculiar method of stifling criticism and self-criticism... elective officials begin to lose their sense of responsibility...

Russian text:

Podmena vybornosti kooptatsiyei fakticheski prevraschayet vybory v pustuyu formalnost, predstavlyayet svoeobraznyy zazhim kritiki i samokritiki...vybornie rabotniki nachinayut utrachivat chuvstvo otvetstvennosti...

A formal attitude toward propaganda and political enlightenment on the part of the oblast lecture groups is charged by KRASNY KURGAN on 25 February. Many Party leaders are said to be unable to "shake off their formalistic habits" in such important political work as lecture propaganda, supervision of the work of the political schools and so on. Mediocrity and indifference toward political enlightenment are, according to the paper, the twin evils which must be thoroughly

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eliminated before any palpable improvement can be expected in Party work. The transition from Socialism to Communism, says IZVESTIA editorially on 26 February, demands a much higher political ideological and theoretical level of leadership than "some of our "executive personnel" (rukovodiashchie kadry) seem to think. No Party, Soviet or other official, however high, is exempt from further study and training in Marxist-Leninist theory since no one, it is implied, can be said to have mastered it to perfection. Unfortunately says the paper, this is not the case everywhere: CPYRGHT

Many leading officials of local Soviets, Ministries and administrations do not systematically supplement their knowledge in the sphere of Marxism-Leninism.

Russian text:

Mnogie rukovodiashchie rabotniki mestnykh Sovetov, ministerstv i vedomstv ne popolnyayut sistematicheskii svoikh znanii v oblasti marksizma-leninizma.

Criticized in this connection are the first two deputies of the Kirghiz SSR's Minister of Agriculture, Sopuyev and Derkembayev, who have neglected their personal political studies on the wrong assumption that they know it all. Nor are they alone in their attitude--a negligent attitude (prenebrezhitelnoye otnosheniye) toward political self-education is characteristic of many other officials of that Ministry. Similar theoretical and political "backwardness" (otstalost) is attributed to the top executives of the Primorye Krai Soviet, Simanov and Vorobyev, and "a number of other officials." Inadequate political training, and editorial reiterates, is invariably reflected in failures (provaly) in the economic sphere which in turn provide a suitable opening for alien elements to infiltrate Soviet institutions.

Reviewing the political situation in Bessarabian SSR, MOLDOVA SOCIALISTA (27 February) declares that the decisions adopted at the recent 19th Party Congress are not implemented by a number of local Party committees as well as they should be. Thus the monthly plenary sessions which every town and rayon Committee is "duty bound" to hold, have remained largely on paper. Some of them simply "do not respect this rule." Intra-Party democracy, which calls among other things, for more criticism from below, is frequently relegated to a secondary place, and the election of Party officials to local Committees, "which is a law for all Party organizations," is just as often by-passed by the unlawful method of co-optation.

Local Broadcasting: What amounts to a plea for a thorough reorganization of radio programming and broadcasting in Stalingrad oblast is contained in a Rostovschikov article carried by PRAVDA on 24 February but not broadcast. The work of the oblast radio committee is characterized as chaotic and the performance of its various announcers and broadcasters as inferior. The worst situation is reported to be in the "latest news" (poslednie izvestia) department where programs are frequently made up of "any materials that come to hand" (podvernuyshiesya pod ruku materialy). As for programming, it appears that no one in the radio committee knows what is going to be transmitted or performed "within the next three or four days." The Committee has "fenced itself off" (otgorodilsya) from the masses and welcomed a number of unscrupulous and cheap authors into its staff. One of its officials, Igolnikov, even went so far as to demand "financial rewards" (denezhnoye vozнаграждение) for favorable publicity given to certain organizations and individual stakhanovites. STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editor Shiryayev, who was dismissed from his post for habitual drunkenness and immoral life, was employed by the oblast radio committee in an executive capacity, and now "continues to violate Party and State discipline." The language used on the radio, says Rostovschikov, would irk any Soviet listeners:

The language of the transmissions is colorless, dry: there is no sentence without a cliché, and semi-literate expressions are frequent.

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Russian text:

Yazyk peredach beztsvetniy, sukhoy; chto ni fraza, to shtamp, neredki malogramotnie formulirovki.

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Articles and dispatches rejected by the press are said to be accepted "en masse" by the radio and their authors generously remunerated. Is there any wonder that the Radio Committee is "trudging at the tail end of events" (pletetsya v khvoste sobytiy)? Typifying the reaction of Stalingrad radio listeners, according to Rostovschikov, is a statement recently made to him by a metal worker of the "Krasny Oktiabr" plant:

Our radio transmissions are dull and monotonous...to be absolutely frank, half if not more of the Stalingraders switch off their loud speakers and receiving sets when local broadcasting begins.

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Russian text:

Skuchny, odnoobrazny nashi radioperedachi...Esli po dushe priznatsya, polovina, a to i bolshe stalingradtsev vyklyuchayut reproduktory i priemniki, kogda nachinayetsya mestnoye veshchanie.

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